

IN THE CLAIMS

- 1. (currently amended) A method of friction stir welding together at least two metallic workpieces, including the step of applying at or adjacent a heated welding zone a cryogen in the form of at least one jet; thereby reducing tensile stresses in said welding zone and creating compressive stresses in said welding zone.
 - 2. (original) The method claimed in Claim 1, in which the cryogen is a liquid cryogen.
 - 3. (original) The method claimed in Claim 2, in which the liquid cryogen is nitrogen.
 - 4. (original) The method claimed in Claim 2, in which the liquid cryogen is argon.
 - 5. (original) The method claimed in Claim 1, in which the cryogen is solid carbon dioxide.
 - 6. (original) The method claimed in Claim 1, in which the cryogen is a mixture of solid carbon dioxide and a liquid cryogen.
 - 7. (original) The method claimed in Claim 1 wherein the workpieces are of aluminium or an aluminium alloy.